

Irish Genealogy – A list of web sites to search

A Townland is a small geographical division of land used in Ireland. Townlands are used extensively in Irish genealogy. Lists of townlands for each of Ireland's 32 counties can be accessed on Google. It is better to search by county rather than by the whole of Ireland.

Irish Civil Records (free)

Search: www.irishgenealogy.ie

Births: 1864 – 1920

Marriages: 1845 – 1945

Deaths: 1871 - 1970

You will need to know the **Civil Registration Districts**.

There are lists of Civil Reg. Districts for each of Ireland's 32 counties free online.

Often a Civil Registration District overlaps country borders.

R.C. Church Records (free)

Search: *National Library of Ireland*

- Click on Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI.
- Enter the parish (Roman Catholic parish)
- Scroll down and click on the map of Ireland to bring up the parishes in each county. Parishes often overlap counties boundaries.
- If there is more than one parish with that name entered a list of the Dioceses will appear. Select the required dioceses and click.
- The available Microfilms for that parish can then be accessed. Not all births, marriages and deaths are available.

1901 and 1911 Census (free)

Search: *National Archives: Census of Ireland 1901/1911*

Note:

You will probably find huge discrepancies in ages between the 1901 census and the 1911 census. This was because the Age pension came into effect and people upped their age to qualify for it.

1. “Search the Census records of Ireland 1901/1911” – It automatically comes up 1911. It will need to be changed it to 1901 if that is the year required.

There are fields to enter the surname, forename, **county**, **townland** and **DED** (District electoral division) of the record you are searching. If only the surname and county are known a fairly large number of names appear,

2. When you click on a name it will bring up all the people in the household. Then *click the box on the top right of the page to expand it will give further information.* (Ages, birthplace, occupations, literacy, relation to head of household, marital status, for women the number of years married, the number of children born and the number of children still living.

3. **Underneath the names are links to other forms.**

Household Return – will bring up the actual form filled in on the night of the census.

Enumerators abstract forms – gives collated information on the number of male and females and their religion in each household together with the District Electoral Division, Poor Law Union, Barony, (Civil) Parish, Town/village/townland.

House and Building Return – information on whether the building is a public house, shop, or private dwelling. The number of outhouses. The construction of the wall and roof. The number of rooms and windows in the front of the building. Class of house 1st, 2nd, 3rd. The name of the head of the family. Number of rooms occupied by each family if more than one and the total number in each family.

Griffith's Valuations 1848 – 1864 (free)

Search: www.askaboutireland.ie/griffiths-valuation

Griffiths Valuations was carried out between 1848 and 1864 to determine liability to pay for the poor and destitute within each Poor Law Union.

It gives the names of the principal occupiers, the lessor or landlord's name, the area of the land (acres, roods, & perch), if there is a house and outbuildings, the rateable valuation of the land and the rateable valuation of the buildings.

On the extreme left of the names of the occupiers of each townland there are numbers and letters of reference. These will show the site of each landholding and building and the boundaries of each occupiers land. It is difficult to find the townlands on the maps as the letters in the townlands names are spread out. However, it is interesting to see the actual land where an ancestor lived.)

“Map Views” has the original maps hand drawn at the time of the valuation of the townlands. See above comment.

This site can also be searched by entering a place name. You will need to go to the top of the page and change the search criteria.

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Irish Tithe Applotment Books 1823 – 1837 (free)

Search: [Irish National Archives](#)

These were handwritten books compiled between 1823 and 1837 to determine the amount of tithes occupiers of all agricultural holdings, had to pay the Church of Ireland, the established protestant church until 1869. The format is sometimes different from area to area.

They only give the names of the title holders.

Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1858 – 1922 (Free Search)

In Civil Records

**Townlands, Civil Parishes, Baronies, Poor Law Unions,
DED's (District Electoral Divisions)**

Google search:

For example: Co Wicklow:

7 Baronies

59 Civil Parishes

1,256 Townlands.

Other Sites:

www.familysearch.org

findmypast.ie

Ancestry.com

Rootsireland.ie

- findmypast.ie and rootsireland.ie have transcribed catholic parish records. You can search records free on **findmypast.ie**, as long as you have an account.
- You need to subscribe to search them on **rootsireland.ie**. They also have Church of Ireland records.

There is and Irish genealogy site on facebook (new name Meta). The members are very helpful in finding information when people request help.
